

PROGRESS IN CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASES—Progress in Cardiac Surgery—Edited by Charles Friedberg, M.D. A Quarterly Publication. Grune & Stratton, Inc., 381 Fourth Avenue, New York City 16. Volume 1, Number 1, 108 pages. Price: Subscription to Volume 1 (four successive issues) \$8.00 in U.S.A., \$10.00 elsewhere; single-issue price, \$3.00.

This monograph is Vol. 1, No. 1 of a quarterly journal devoted to progress in cardiovascular diseases. The first volume very appropriately deals with cardiac surgery which has been responsible for the greatest progress in cardiology within the past ten years. The authors are all internationally known stars who summarize various facets of the subject, bringing the reader up to date. Reviews of the bibliography quoted in the articles reveals that references of 1957 and 1958 are included, indicating that the articles are right up to the minute, providing the best variety of postgraduate information. The authors include Doctors Friedberg, Wood, Hufnagel, Swan, Gibbon, Jr., Kirklin, Morrow, Cooley, and Baffes.

The volume can be strongly recommended for all physicians interested in the current status of cardiac surgery.

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ALCOHOLISM AND CALIFORNIA RELATED STATISTICS—1900-1956—State of California Department of Public Health—Prepared for the Division of Alcoholic Rehabilitation, John R. Philp, M.D., Chief. 127 pages.

This is a very well done compilation of statistics on the prevalence of alcoholism and its effect on public health and welfare. One is struck by the low spot in the graphs of incidence corresponding to the period of Prohibition. It is of considerable interest to compare the incidence of alcoholism in various localities and at various times, and the magnitude of the problem of the intemperate use of alcohol is well conveyed by the figures presented.

HENRY NEWMAN, M.D.

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THE URETEROVESICAL JUNCTION—The Theory of Extravesicalization of the Intravesical Ureter—John A. Hutch, M.D., Clinical Instructor of Urology, University of California, San Francisco. University of California Press, Berkeley, California, 1958. 178 pages, \$7.50.

This small volume is a report of the work done and the conclusions reached by the author in his exhaustive study of upper urinary tract dilatation and urinary reflux, one of the most difficult and controversial problems in the field of urology. It must still be considered to a considerable degree unsolved, though the author's tremendous experience and numerous contributions to the current literature have made his name synonymous with the latest thinking on the subject. Probably no one speaks with greater authority, and the Hutch operation approaches at least the status of a standard procedure, though the author would doubtless admit that it is by no means universally successful. Whether this is due to a defect in the basic concept of the etiology, to poor surgical technique, or to an irreversible stage of the pathology, the urologist must decide for himself. The author indicates that in his hands he obtains 84 per cent of satisfactory results, and that of 252 operations reported to him by other operators, 74 per cent were considered successful. Since successful operations are more apt to be reported it seems likely that these results are somewhat better than can be expected by the average urologist.

In the first part of the book the author discusses the condition as it occurs in the paraplegic, basing his opinions on an experience of 10 years in the Veterans' Administration Hospital in Richmond, Virginia, and in the California Rehabilitation Center in Vallejo. He attempts to explain the development of hydronephrosis and reflux on the anatomical

changes occurring in the spastic bladder and presents two proposals for the correction of the condition. The first is the uretero-vesical plastic procedure with which his name is associated—the operation mentioned above—and the second is sacral rhizotomy, by which the abnormal nerve impulses to the bladder are interrupted and the spasticity reduced. The technique of his own operation is well described.

The second part of the work is concerned with the occurrence of hydronephrosis and reflux associated with bladder neck obstruction and also as found in children. His final chapter is an outline of the management of "hydroflux," as he calls it, in patients in all categories, with brief comments on the advantages and disadvantages of each procedure.

There is no doubt that anyone interested in this very difficult problem, whether urologist, neurologist, or neurosurgeon, must be familiar with all the important contributions to the subject, and there is no one better fitted to speak authoritatively than the writer of this work. Without adequate personal experience, which few urologists have, one is hardly competent to question either the accuracy of his conclusions or of his therapeutic claims. But every urological or neurological surgeon should by all means have the book and make himself thoroughly familiar with its contents.

LYLE G. CRAIG, M.D.

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SIR CHARLES BELL—His Life and Times—Sir Gordon Gordon-Taylor, K.B.E., C.B., F.R.C.S.; Honorary Consultant Surgeon to the Middlesex Hospital, and E. W. Walls, M.D., Ch.B., B.Sc., F.R.S.(Ed.); S.A. Courtauld Professor of Anatomy in the University of London at the Middlesex Hospital Medical School. The Williams & Wilkins Co., Baltimore, Maryland, exclusive U. S. agents for E. & S. Livingstone Ltd., Edinburgh and London, 1958. 288 pages, \$8.50.

Gordon-Taylor and Walls have produced a vivid and intensely interesting biography of a great surgeon and anatomist, Sir Charles Bell. Not only are the facts of his life presented but they are admirably set against an account of his times, a feature neglected by many biographers. Of greatest interest of course is the highly exciting story of Bell's famous controversy with Magendie and with Mayo which is dealt with in interesting detail; exactly what went on in Bell's mind, usually so clear and fair, is not settled.

The book is well gotten up and it is enlivened by numerous pertinent illustrations of Bell's dissections, his haunts and other interesting material. A complete bibliography of Bell's writings concludes this fine volume.

ARTHUR L. BLOOMFIELD, M.D.

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HANDBOOK OF MEDICAL TREATMENT—Sixth Edition—Milton J. Chatton, M.D., Director of Medical Institutions, Santa Clara County, California; Superintendent of Santa Clara County Hospital, San Jose, California; Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine, University of California School of Medicine, San Francisco; Sheldon Margen, M.A., M.D., Associate Research Biochemist, Department of Physiological Chemistry, and Clinical Instructor in Medicine, University of California School of Medicine, San Francisco; and Henry Brainerd, M.D., Professor of Medicine and Chairman, Department of Medicine, University of California School of Medicine, San Francisco, and Physician-in-Chief, University of California Hospitals, San Francisco. Lange Medical Publications, Los Altos, California, 1958. 569 pages, \$3.50.

This popular handbook of medical treatment has now come out in its sixth edition since 1949. The authors have again done an excellent job of revision. It is characteristically jam-packed with therapeutic facts from cover to cover. We can recommend it freely as a ready reference for the coat pocket of the student and intern as well as for the medical bag of the practicing physician.

EDGAR WAYBURN, M.D.